



Michigan Association of
Retired School Personnel
Protecting your future

2021 Annual Business Meeting

Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel



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Retired School Personnel

Protecting your future

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Royce C. Humm
MARSP Executive Director

Robert Kucera
MARSP President

Steve Gordon
MARSP President Elect

Sue Jakubiak
MARSP Vice President

Paul Lerg
MARSP Past-president

Heston Bates
MARSP Treasurer

Speedy Bates
MARSP Secretary

Mission Statement:

*To protect and enhance
pension and health
insurance benefits for all
Michigan public school
retirees.*

2021 Annual Business Meeting

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Call to Order, Welcome, Invocation, Pledge | Area Director |
| 2. Presentation of Annual Video | |
| Introduction and Highlights | |
| | Royce Humm, <i>MARSP Executive Director</i> |
| Inside Look - Office of Retirement Services | Anthony Estell, <i>Executive Director</i> |
| Inside Look - Marquette Chapter, MARSP | Jacqueline Andresen, <i>Vice President</i> |
| Inside Look - Ottawa Chapter, MARSP | Deb Herrick, <i>Co-President</i> |
| Inside Look - Washtenaw Chapter, MARSP | Sherry Warden, <i>President</i> |
| Inside Look - Genesee SE Chapter, MARSP | Joan Turner, <i>Membership Chair</i> |
| Closing Comments | |
| | Royce Humm, <i>MARSP Executive Director</i> |
| 3. Election of Area and Assistant Area Director | Chapter President |
| Determined by a majority vote of members present (Odd-Numbered Areas only) | |
| 4. Area Director's Report | Area Director |
| 5. MARSP Year End Review | Written Handout |
| 6. MARSP Foundation Report | Written Handout |
| 7. Award Presentations | Area Director |
| 8. Adjournment | |



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MARSP Year-End Review

This past year has presented plenty of challenges, but I'm proud to report that our organization responded very well and continues to serve our community in a very effective way. The MARSP Board, Committee Members, and Staff continue to work diligently to make MARSP the most effective and useful advocacy group for all MPSERS pension recipients. Our work on benefits and legislation is focused on one key element – you!

There were some changes to the prescription coverages for certain plans for 2021. For a detailed explanation of this change and the plan itself, please refer to the Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 VANGUARD special health care sections. It is very important for every member to be fully informed of their plan. We also recommend providing your physicians and specialists a copy of your summary of benefits, so they too can have a better understanding of your MPSERS health care benefits during your appointment.

MARSP continues to work diligently with the Legislature to keep them informed of the value you place on your pension and health care benefits. The 2020 legislative focus was largely on pandemic response, but we were able to make some progress on one of our legislative goals of reducing the restrictions for retirees to go back into the school district for positions on the critical shortage list or under a pandemic response plan. Public Act 267 of 2020 amends the Public School Employees Retirement Act, Public Act 300 of 1980, to loosen restrictions and allow retirees to serve in critical shortage capacities.

Thanks to our non-partisan and relationship-building approach, we have been successful in protecting and enhancing the benefits for all Michigan public school retirees. MARSP continues to be dedicated exclusively to Michigan public school retiree issues. We have positioned ourselves to have the ear of both major parties and our respectful, educated approach has been critical to our ability to be heard.

In the near future, there may be a time when we will ask you to make your voices heard through phone calls, e-mails, letters, and even meetings with your legislators via a new software tool that will enable our members to increase their engagement and effectiveness in advocating for what is best for Michigan public school retirees.

Again this year we are asking our members to support the Voluntary Benefit Defense Fund (VBDF) with a \$2.00 or greater donation to defray the costs we will be incurring to defend your benefits. (These dollars cannot be used for any other purpose.) It is very important to keep informed of legislation and the past and current positions of legislators on issues of importance to you. You will continue to see information in the VANGUARD throughout the year.

Since my first day on the job at MARSP, I've been focused on listening to and learning from our membership. I'm learning that some things are working for us and some things could use improvement. As an organization, we started a strategic planning process that is building on our successes and expanding our horizons as we explore new ways to serve the interests of our members. I ask that you be patient with us, share your positive experiences with others, and spread the word to other retirees, spouses, active employees, and friends to join MARSP as it continues to help members make the rest of their lives the best of their lives!

Royce C. Humm
Executive Director

Office Hours

7:30 a.m - 11:30 a.m
12:00 p.m - 4:00 p.m

Telephone:

517.337.1757
888.960.4022

Fax:

517.337.8560

**Chairman**

Marie L. Wilkerson

Chief Executive Officer

Royce C. Humm

Address

PO Box 23214
Lansing, MI 48909-3214

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MARSP Foundation Report

The MARSP Foundation is a separate entity from MARSP, formed as a public charity under the IRS Code designation of 501(c)(3). It was established to allow members who desired, to make tax-deductible donations to MARSP. The purpose of the Foundation, as set forth in the bylaws, is to provide educational information to educators through forums, seminars, workshops, conferences, panels, newsletters, brochures, etc.; i.e., MARSP annual business meetings.

The Foundation Board of Directors meets at least once each fiscal year to determine objectives and monitor the progress of the organization.

The Foundation has several committees to oversee its projects. The scholarship committee has as its goal providing five scholarships annually, of up to \$1,000 each, to currently working public school employees. Eight (8) scholarships totaling \$7,500 were awarded in 2020. The Scholarship Fund has sponsored two golf outings in the past with the proceeds to help fund the scholarships. In 2020, a mail-based campaign was utilized to tell the story of the impact of the MARSP Foundation and we were able to maintain our annual revenue with this statewide effort.

The Richard and Margaret Smith Fund committee manages the fund that provides financial assistance to some of our less fortunate members. Chapters apply for grants of up to \$500; the committee studies the applications and sends checks to the chapters. The chapters are asked to match the funds, but are not required to do so. The chapter then provides the assistance directly to the member. Funding for the Smith Fund comes directly from the contributions of MARSP members.

The Endowment Fund Committee is responsible for the Foundation Endowment Fund. The market value of the fund as of January 29, 2021 has in excess of \$76,000 of which \$30,000 are unrestricted funds.

If you would like to support the efforts of the MARSP Foundation, please look for the Foundation appeal envelope in your annual membership dues mailing or visit the Foundation on the MARSP website www.marsp.org to learn more.

The Foundation continues to be an important part of the parent organization, MARSP.

You can make a difference

Michelle Kostrzewa

If you asked Michelle Kostrzewa 10 years ago if she would be a special education teacher, her answer would be no. Teaching was not on her radar. She was busy raising two young kids and putting her journalism degree to good use. When the economy took a turn, Michelle found herself like many others in the unemployment line. She took this time and focused on her family and young children. As her kids got older and headed off to school, Michelle needed something to fill her time, so she took a job as an elementary lunchroom aid. **Little did she know this would be a life-changing career move, and little did she know the MARSP Foundation was going to help make that happen.**

Michelle spent one year as a Freeland elementary lunchroom aid, spending her time doing what she loved, helping students. Michelle was happy, but she felt like she had more to give. The middle school was hiring a secretary for the front office. Michelle thought this would be a great move for her. She had office experience, and she was well-versed in technology, why not! Michelle applied for the job and got the interview.

Her interview with the school superintendent was going well. However, they realized that this was not the right position for Michelle. The superintendent suggested that Michelle apply and interview for the Intervention Supervisor for at-risk 7th and 8th graders. Michelle was intrigued and wanted to know more. By the end of the conversation, Michelle knew in her gut that this was the job for her.

"I remember calling my mom after the interview and telling her I have to get this job. I have to get this job!"

Michelle's mother understood; she knew her daughter, and she knew education. Michelle's mother, a retired public school educator and a MARSP member, knew that this was where she needed to be.

Michelle accepted the job as the Freeland Middle School Intervention Supervisor for at-risk 7th and 8th graders. This was a new position for the district, and Michelle was up for the challenge. Michelle quickly learned that being an educator is not just about teaching students but also building trusting relationships with students. She began to connect with her students and earned their trust as an educator and mentor.

Michelle's principal approached her about continuing her education and becoming a certified Special Education teacher. She suggested the Accelerated Certification with Residency (ACR) program at Saginaw Valley State University. Michelle did her research, talked with her husband (a high school math teacher), and decided that this was the right next step, but they were concerned about how they would afford it. With two kids in high school, finding the money to continue her education would be hard. Her mother heard about the MARSP Foundation Scholarship and suggested that she apply for it.

Michelle passed her Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) test in English and earned her Secondary Certification last May. She is currently working toward her Special Education certification from Concordia University.

"Receiving this scholarship from the MARSP Foundation was so helpful for our family. I was able to continue my education. I am so grateful for the MARSP members and the MARSP Foundation".





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2020 Program Highlights



MARSP Pension Seminars

MARSP was able to hold both in-person and online Pension Seminars in 2020. These seminars provide essential information to active school personnel thinking about retirement. This seminar is available to all public school and community college employees who are members of the MPSERS retirement plan



MARSP Member Webinars

In 2020 MARSP introduced webinars as another way to get timely information to members. In 2020 MARSP hosted three webinars with a total number of 2,821 attendees.



MARSP Leadership Webinars

We created a special webinar series for chapter leadership. In the past, leadership training had been done face-to-face, but due to COVID-19, we are not able to host these face-to-face training sessions. We still wanted to provide chapter leaders the opportunity to continue their professional development and deliver timely and critical information.



Legislative Advocacy

MARSP was proud to announce an exciting win for retirees. In late 2020 HB 4694 (Lilly) was passed, making it easier for retirees to return to the building and support Michigan learners.



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2020 MARSP Events

2020 MARSP Webinars

WEBINAR

Impact of COVID-19 on retired
school personnel.

Thursday, June 4, 2020
2:00 pm EST



Royce C. Humm
Executive Director
Michigan Association of
Retired School Personnel



Anthony Estell
Executive Director
Office Retirement Services (ORS)
State of Michigan

Total Attendees: 1,029

WEBINAR

Understanding Michigan's new
auto insurance law.

Thursday, June 25, 2020
2:00 pm EST

Total Attendees: 1,407

Expert panelist from:



Nonprofit corporations and independent licensees
of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association



WEBINAR

Planning and considerations
for early retirement.

Thursday, August 6, 2020
2:00 pm EST

Total Attendees: 385



2020 MARSP Leadership Webinars

Leadership Webinar Series

Considerations for meetings
during COVID-19

Wednesday, September 9, 2020
2:00 pm EST



Total Attendees: 134

Leadership Webinar Series

November 2020
Legislative Update

Thursday, November 19, 2020
2:00pm EST



Total Attendees: 86

2020 Pension Seminars



make

[THE REST OF YOUR LIFE]
[THE BEST OF YOUR LIFE.]

Understand your MPERS Benefits
and Retirement Planning

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written permission of MARSP
Retirement Planning Services, LLC.

Total scheduled - 121 seminars

Total Leads - 803



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MARSP State Distinguished Service Award

MARSP established the State Distinguished Service Award (DSA) in 1980 for the purpose of recognizing state service of members during their retirement from public school work.

Nominations for these awards are to be made by a chapter on the basis of the following criteria:

- A. Outstanding service beyond what is usually expected for the local chapter.
- B. Service in one or more capacities on the state level.
- C. Service in community projects in which great amounts of volunteer effort have been expended.

2020 Recipients

Debra Herrick

Ottawa County Chapter



Lillian Jones-Thomas

Saginaw County Chapter

